

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 277
OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN OF FLORIDA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the bilateral relationship between the United States and Tunisia dates back to 1795;

Whereas the United States was the first major power to recognize Tunisian sovereignty following Tunisia's independence from France in 1956;

Whereas the United States and Tunisia share many core values, including a respect for human rights and the rule of law, and equality for women and minorities;

Whereas on December 17, 2010, a popular revolution began in the Tunisian city of Sidi Bouzid that would inspire the "Arab Spring";

Whereas the people of Tunisia and their freely elected representatives work diligently to secure Tunisia as a beacon for those dedicated to the rule of law and democracy in a region fraught with forces that oppose such goals;

Whereas Tunisia successfully transitioned from authoritarian rule and is on the path toward a democracy;

Whereas, on January 26, 2014, Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly adopted a new constitution;

Whereas, on October 26, 2014, Tunisia held the country's first democratic parliamentary elections for the Assembly of the Representatives of the People;

Whereas, on December 31, 2014, Beji Caid Essebsi was sworn into office as Tunisia's first freely elected President and the country's first peaceful democratic executive transition;

Whereas Tunisia has faced severe terrorism threats, most recently manifested by returned foreign fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and ISIL sympathizers conducting attacks against Tunisians and foreign terrorists in Sousse and at the Bardo Museum; and

Whereas, on July 10, 2015, Tunisia became the 16th major non-NATO ally of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

1 That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the people of Tunisia for
3 their commitment to democracy, the rule of law,
4 and free and fair elections;

5 (2) commends the Government of Tunisia
6 for holding successful legislative elections on
7 October 26, 2014;

8 (3) commends the Government of Tunisia
9 for holding the successful first round of their
10 Presidential election on November 23, 2014,
11 and for the peaceful and fair completion of the
12 Presidential election on December 21, 2014;

1 (4) encourages all political parties in Tuni-
2 sia to continue to work together as they endeav-
3 or to realize the standards of transparency, in-
4 clusiveness, and equality established in the Tu-
5 nisian Constitution;

6 (5) recognizes Tunisia's legislative and
7 Presidential elections as an example of a peace-
8 ful, democratic transition of power for other na-
9 tions throughout the region to follow;

10 (6) calls on the Secretary of State to con-
11 tinue to assist Tunisia in counterterrorism op-
12 erations and in security sector reform so that
13 Tunisia may achieve a balance between com-
14 bating terrorism and protecting its transition to
15 a democracy;

16 (7) affirms the United States commitment
17 to strengthening our bilateral relationship with
18 Tunisia; and

19 (8) calls on the President of the United
20 States to advance the United States-Tunisia re-
21 lationship, through our shared values and inter-
22 ests, by engaging in a Strategic Partnership.

